



**WDTC Newsletter**

[www.wdtd.info](http://www.wdtd.info)

**March 2005**

## Editorial

With winter on its way out (I hope) we are rapidly approaching the busiest time of year with all those impending agility and flyball competitions filling every available weekend. But WDTC committee and members will be at their busiest in the coming six weeks with AGM on 23 March and our Open agility show on the weekend of the 23/24 April when it will be all hands to the pumps if we are to keep things running smoothly.

Good luck to all members in the coming months and apologies for putting dates on the front page but they are important so please keep these dates free to come along to the AGM and particularly to help at our show.

Ian Hutchinson (Editor)

## WDTC Open Agility Show 23/24 April

Schedules have been printed, distributed and posted on websites and most of you will be aware that this is the Club's **BIG** Weekend! Entries close on 14 March and shortly after that we will know how big. The show takes place at Newbury Showground over the weekend from **Friday 22 April** (setting up) through **Saturday 23 April** (completing setting up, and running 4 rings for mini / midi competitions) to **Sunday 24 April** (full day of classes for standard dogs over 8 rings), and we'll need all your help. Someone will be contacting you soon to find out when you can help out, and allocate you jobs.

**Please put this date in your diary.**

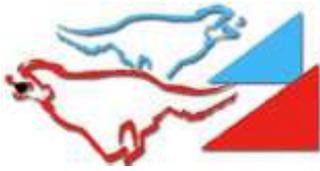
## AGM : Wed 23 March

As a registered Kennel Club club, we have an elected committee who meet regularly to run the club. Each year we have an AGM where members get the opportunity to elect the committee, and we also use this occasion to hand out annual awards to members. And this year the Team Captain of the GB Agility squad, Steve Croxford, will be giving us a talk on his experiences. How do you pick a team to represent the UK? How do you train them and make sure their dogs have all the correct paperwork? What's it like at the World Agility Championships? How do handlers control their nerves? I'm sure these questions, and many more, will be answered by Steve at our AGM at East Hagbourne village hall, 7 for 7.15pm.

**Please put this date in your diary.**

## Looking forward to this summer's demos





## Flyball Report

At the Ball-Busters tournament at Maidstone in January, the Sleepless Knights rose again! This team last ran in March 2004, but with different dogs except for Willow. At Maidstone we ran 5 dogs: Razz with Jenny (their 1<sup>st</sup> competition), Jack with Kath and Hattie with Lin (their 1<sup>st</sup> racing indoors, and indoor flyball is very, very noisy), and the experienced Flicker and Willow as the minis with Luce and Jean.

With their inexperience, the team had potential for problems, though we actually had relatively few. Razz ran out a couple of times but was consistent on the whole and his speed kept him in the team, and Jack also ran out a few times and was twice replaced by a mini. Willow started as 1<sup>st</sup> dog but she soon tired so we tried Flicker instead. She proved excellent in this role, unaffected by a collie running in on her. The team performance was aided by our box-loader, Graham, who managed excellently despite some lack of communication by our Team Captain (!), though Jean did a very good job overall.

At the end of the scheduled racing we had won 2 races and lost 2, as had 3 of the 5 teams, so we had to run off for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. This didn't help much as each team ended the run-off with 1 won and 1 lost! So the organizers resorted to the race times. Unfortunately, our team had the slowest best time (only by 1 sec with 23.26 sec), so ended up 4<sup>th</sup>. But everyone got a rosette, which we all felt was an achievement. The team spirit was good and everyone enjoyed the day, a good omen for 2005.

Jean Hatchard

## Vintage Honey

Last year was Honey's best year in agility yet – at the grand old age of 8! Not only did Jose and Honey win out of Starters, but in the Agility Eye Honey is the leading mini for the Midland region.

*“I have been doing agility for 17 years now – starting out with Kiki, a rescued Bearded Collie cross. We did our best, and got the odd place, but we didn't set the world alight!. Then along came Zoltan, a very small Papillon. Zollie did well, getting a third place at his first show and doing well in club competitions. However, in 2004 has been great – with Honey. Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that we would do so well”,* explained Jose.

Honey's main problem was her weaves, as Honey kept coming out before the end, or missing the entry. It wasn't until Jose put some weaves in the garden, putting Honey through them every day before her walk, that she became consistent. Honey is 8 years old now, and slowing down a bit, so Poppy has a lot to live up to. *“I'm looking forward to 2005”*, said Jose.

## WDTC supports good causes

We made a healthy profit at our 2004 Open agility show. The majority of this will be used to buy new agility equipment, pay for training for our trainers, and sponsor special training days. But the committee agreed that we could donate **£550** to charities chosen by members. The Royal Vet College in Cambridge, Many Tears rescue centre (nominated by Jacky, where Dash came from), Pine Ridge rescue centre (nominated by Jose, where Poppy came from), Hearing Dogs for Deaf People in Lewknor.

## London Streets from

*“Now We Are Sixty by Christopher Matthew”*

*Thanks to Kat for this cultural pearl.*

Whenever I walk down a London street,  
I take great care where I put my feet.  
And I watch for the gobs  
And the doggies' big jobs  
That lie there in piles, some sloppy, some neat,  
Waiting for people to squidge with their feet.  
And I tiptoe around  
With my eyes on the ground  
And I wonder what horror I'm next going to meet.

And the harder I look, I give you my word,  
The more I seem drawn to the tiniest turd.  
And the dogs see me coming and say 'Here's a sap.  
Let's nip round the corner and have a good crap.  
He's wearing those shoes that have crinkly soles,  
With lots of small ridges and dozens of holes.  
And if we distract him by having a piddle,  
Nine times out of ten he'll tread slap in the middle.'  
There's nothing more pleases a dog's simple wit  
Than to hear the familiar cry of 'Oh, shit!'

**STOP PRESS: Yvonne won Best in Breed at Crufts with her Malinois, Shankley.**

## Watchdog

Please give articles, results, letters and news items to Ian Hutchinson or a trainer to pass on, or you can email to [facian@ntlworld.com](mailto:facian@ntlworld.com).